

# THE STROBE

FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER

Issue 5

October 19, 1994

## Politics to decide FSC extension

by Mark LeBlanc  
Strobe staff

For every action there is a reason; hence for every non-action there is a lack of a reason. It is fundamentally this idea which might keep Fitchburg State College from receiving its fitness and recreation center.

"Politics is a real player in this issue, and we're on the short end," said FSC President Vincent Mara. He explained that it would ultimately be Governor Weld's approval that would get FSC a fitness center, and that realistically will not happen.

Mara predicted that Weld will win this year's election in a landslide. With votes easy to come by, Weld does not politically need to grant money for an athletic center for Fitchburg.

The talk around Fitchburg that the new gym is right around the corner is, according to Mara, "optimistic, buoyant rhetoric." If money was to be allocated to a school, he explained, it would be for renovations, not for a new

athletic facility.

With all of the renovations planned for the area, Fitchburg Mayor Jeffrey Bean had Senator Kerry visit North Street on Thursday, October 13. After walking the street, Senator Kerry said that the area "needs help." He went on to say that the crime bill passed last month will add 97 new police officers to twelve different communities in Massachusetts, one of which might be Fitchburg.

The Crime Bill was presented by President Clinton and will give Massachusetts \$7 million out of the \$200 million allocated for the country's crime problem. If Fitchburg makes the list, it "will make the area safer for everyone, including Fitchburg State students," said Senator Kerry.

Senator Kerry's visit to the North Street area on Thursday did not excite Mara. "I didn't even waste my time going down there to see him."

According to Mara, if the fitness center was approved it



Senator John Kerry and Mayor Jeffrey Bean tour North Street area in Fitchburg.

photo by Jason Koivu

could be paid for two different ways. One way is that the state would take the whole bill and use its surplus money from last year's budget to pay for it.

The other option would be that the state would agree to pay

for half and that the students would pay for the rest through a raise in tuition. If this option was presented to Mara, he said that he would immediately agree and raise tuition because "it is a good deal."

Though not as optimistic as when he first took the position as FSC President 18 years ago, Mara concluded that there is still a chance to get the athletic facility—a very small chance.

## Schlesinger repudiates ethnic nationalism

by Derek Valcourt  
Strobe staff

"E pluribus unum"—one out of many. Not "many out of one", at least not according to Historian Author M. Schlesinger Jr., who spoke against what he called "the virus of tribalism" and "ethnic nationalism" when he visited Fitchburg State College on October 11.

Schlesinger, 76, explained two types of nationalism to the crowd that packed Richard Kent Recital Hall. He said civic nationalism maintains that the nation should be composed of all those who subscribe to the nation's creed regardless of race, color, gender and ethnicity.

Ethnic nationalism, however, claims that the individual's deepest attachments are inherited, not chosen. "Under ethnic nationalism, it is the national community who defines the individual, not the individual who defines the national community," he said. This new wave of multiculturalism, Schlesinger said, was breaking up this country's national identity.

"What is it that holds this nation together?" asked Schlesinger. He answered that at the founding of this nation it was individuals who left their old loyalties to join to make new lives while shedding ethnic differences. This brought, he argued, a new national identity founded on political principles,

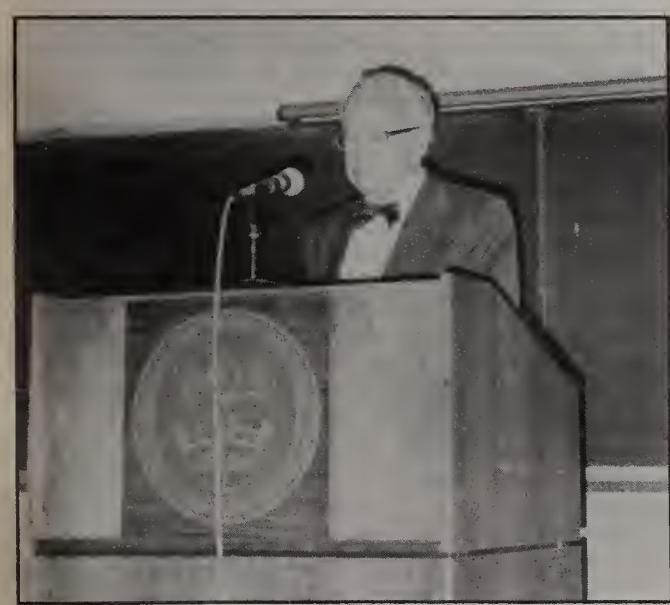
not ethnicity.

"The new ethnic nationalism, in its militant form, rejects the unifying concept of a unique American identity," he said. "Its underlying philosophy is that America is not a nation of individuals at all, but a nation of ethnic groups which divide to establish the basic structure of American society."

He went on to say that ethnic nationalism morally repudiates the history of America, though he did advocate multicultural lessons taught from different perspectives.

Schlesinger is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winning author who served as a president-

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Arthur Schlesinger spoke at Kent Recital Hall.

photo by Derek Valcourt

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Russian exchange students speak about their experiences in America.

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Nick Costas amuses FSC students at Comedy Night

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Field Hockey team looking for answers to recent losing streak.

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## Alcohol Awareness Week

by Anne Marie Kicza  
Contributing writer

Alcohol Awareness Week will take place Monday through Friday, October 24-28, with an information fair and various events to promote awareness on campus.

In G-Lobby, a display of newspaper articles will show the affects of alcohol on today's society. Every person is affected by the violence and crime resulting from alcohol abuse. The display will remain throughout the week.

Monday's events include a forum discussing alcohol use and abuse on campus. This issue is pertinent to the college community and all students are urged to attend.

Tuesday, outdoor activities

will be emphasized as "natural highs" and ways to have fun without alcohol. At 2:30 p.m., a student panel will share such experiences as alcoholic parents, loss of a loved one by drunk driving, alcoholism and recovery, and surviving alcohol-related date rape.

A movie marathon of recent favorites involving alcohol will feature such movies as "Clean and Sober" and "Blind Date", starring Bruce Willis and Kim Basinger.

An alcohol information fair Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in G-Lobby will include free mocktails (non-alcoholic cocktails), tables of information from campus and community resources, a quiz board, games and prizes.

Wednesday afternoon at 12:30 p.m. in the Campus Center, the two-man show, "Screaming with Pleasure", will perform "Last Call - A Sobering Look at Alcohol Abuse." This unique, nonjudgmental approach to alcohol and drug prevention and education offers students the tools to overcome everyday pressures to use drugs and alcohol.

Thursday's Alcohol Awareness events will be combined with HIV/AIDS Awareness Day activities. Lectures will take place in the G-Lobby lecture halls from 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with tables, videos and information in the lobby.

A Smart Choices Event is planned for Friday afternoon to end Alcohol Awareness Week.

## Comm Dept to publish Journal

by Kris Ruberti  
Staff writer

Fitchburg State College's Communications/Media Department, under the direction of Chairperson Dr. Charles H. Sides, is taking over the publication of the "Journal of Technical Writing and Communication."

It is the second oldest scholarly journal in the field of technical communications and one of the two most highly respected. The original textbook came out in 1952.

For the past 25 years, the journal has been published at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. The founding editor, Jay R. Gould, was an authority in Technical Communications and Dr. David L. Carson was the executive editor.

Last year, Dr. Charles H. Sides, took over the executive editor position. "It's certainly an honor for a college to publish such a respected journal," said Sides.

The publication comes out four times a year and contains technical and professional writ-

ing. Included in it is training, documentation, visuals and theories.

Most of the authors are professional communicators, psychologists and academics. Sides receives articles through a computer from all over the world, from places as far away as Thailand and Australia. "As long as they have my electronic mail address, anybody can send me something," explains Sides, who also stated that students at FSC will assist in the editing process of the journal.

The publication comes out four times a year and contains technical and professional writ-

"Tale" performed by the Guild Dancers of Lunenburg. The women involved in this dance selection were either nurses or in another health related field.

Poetry selections were read by several women including Joanna Karamanos, an English major at FSC, Thelma Khelgati, the director of Graduate Programs, and Carol Picard and assistant professor of Nursing.

Olga Semenova, an exchange student from Rybinsk, Russia, displayed her talent through pi-

ano selections.

Susan Wadsworth, assistant professor of Humanities, discussed "the creative process of making art."

Pianist Jane Fiske and soprano Claire Kakos Garrity presented a collection of songs by women composers from the 16th-20th centuries.

Caryl Sickul, of the Physical Education Department, presented a dance display, "Social Security" that looked at aging in this country.

## Women's choices



Rhonda Slater

photo by Jen Scull

by Jennifer Scull  
Strobe staff

Forty percent of sexually active college students do not use birth control, which contributes to the 3.5 million unplanned pregnancies each year. Ronda Slater, a California actress and playwright, spoke to many FSC students on October 17 about her experience with alcohol, date rape and women's choices.

The lecture included scenes from her one-woman autobiographical play, "A Name You Never Got", about her reunion with her daughter. Slater has been educating and entertaining people nationwide for the past 10 years. Her play is used as a guide and training means for therapists, social workers and teachers. According to Slater, "people are really moved by her story" and her play has changed the lives of many people.

In 1966, Slater became pregnant unexpectedly and after carrying her baby to term, put her up for adoption. After 18 years, Slater decided to search for her daughter. Slater and her daughter, Jodi, reunited ten years ago and have been "friends" ever since. However, Slater stated that "reunion is not the cure for the pain."

Four percent of the population is adopted and, according to Slater, "a lot of people who are adopted do not feel like they were born." Slater explained adoption as "a permanent solution to a temporary problem."

Slater stated that students need to think ahead and not just look for fun at parties because "every day, college students are giving their babies away to total strangers."

"Of every adoption, there are so many stories and my story just began 10 years ago," explains Slater. Her tears of resolution express both joy and sadness. She was happy that she found her daughter and sad that they had lost all of those years together. Slater explains her daughter Jodi as "a woman, my friend."

Ronda Slater has been nominated for the National Association for Campus Activities' Harry Chapin Award for Contributions to Humanity, as well as Campus Activities Today magazine's Reader's Choice Award for Best Lecture.

## FORUM ON HAITI

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1994  
THE PUB: 2:30  
HAMMOND BUILDING

The Honorable Jean Geneus and Mrs. Marie Lucien of the Caribbean Coalition will provide all of the Fitchburg State College community with an update on the restoration of democracy in Haiti:

How will Aristide rule?  
What is the appropriate U.S. Role?  
What is the history behind the current situation?

Reception to follow.

SCHLESINGER, cont. from pg 1

tial special assistant to John F. Kennedy in 1960. His prize winning biography *A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy* in the White House also won a National Book Award.

Schlesinger opened the college's Visiting Arts and Lecturer's Series(VALS) which continues on November 15 with economics expert Frank A. Cappiello.

For an opposing viewpoint by Dr. Ali Errishi, please turn to Opinion page 6.

# Slattery's Restaurant + Bar

## **Slattery's "Front Room"**

All Day Every Day...

\*The most reasonable prices in the area!

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\*Pool

\*Bowling

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**ALL NFL GAMES EVERY SUNDAY!!!**

\*Free bar snacks

\*KENO

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...take your roomates out for their Birthday!!!

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Hats  
Perfect Gifts**

### Immediate Openings...

**\*Part Time Host or Hostess**

**\*Part Time Servers**

# The Russians are here...Exchange begins

by Craig Cucchiara  
Strobe staff

Gorgeous! " When you hear the Russian exchange students describe something in the U.S. you're likely to hear this word.

Dmitry Sarzhin, Olga Semenova and Alexey Starkov arrived at New York's Kennedy Airport on September 2 and made the five hour drive to Fitchburg State College to begin a semester's worth of study. The three students are the first participants in a new exchange established between FSC and the Rybinsk Aviotechnological Institute.

One of the first things you realize in speaking with them is that they speak excellent English, a feat of impressive proportion. The Russian Cyrillic alphabet and our English alphabet are almost completely different. Thus, for a Russian to learn English, or vice versa, presents more than the usual difficulty.

We have been studying English for nine years," explains Olga Semenova, 20. In fact, part of the reason these three were chosen for this program was their ability to speak English. The three were part of a group of 30 finalists who had good comprehension of our language. They were chosen from among the Institute's more than three thousand total students, before

finally being selected to travel here from Rybinsk.

Language can still present its difficult and often amusing challenges when speaking with the three. For instance, one of Alexey's favorite American expressions is "Oops-a-daisy!". English contains its share of redundancies, especially when you try to explain what "oops" means. Then you realize why they say "gorgeous" so much. Instead of saying "really nice" or "simply magnificent", they use the ever purposeful "gorgeous". It works just fine in many situations.

Their frugality with words isn't surprising. They're not used to wasting anything. The average worker in Russia earns much less than here in the States and, as a result, Russians make due with much less of the frivolities, like cellular phones and other needless consumer goods with which we surround ourselves. Lower income is not an issue, explains Dmitry, because, "the price of living is much cheaper." Apartments can be rented for about forty or fifty dollars per month.

Their home in Rybinsk lies on the southern edge of the Rybinsk Reservoir, at the head of the Volga River. It is the second largest town in Russia's Yaroslavl region. Nearly 250,000 people reside near the banks of the Volga in Rybinsk.



Russian exchange students from left to right: Alexey Starkov, Olga Semenova and Dmitry Sarzhin

photo by Craig Cucchiara

The institute they study at is not all in one area, like FSC. They describe having to walk sometimes 10 to 20 minutes from one building to another. All three live at home, as is the case with most of the student body.

Dmitry and Olga are Material Engineering and Design majors, while Alex is a Computer Science student. They are taking classes here that apply to their individual specialties, along with classes to improve their English speaking and writing.

There is a slight concern about lagging behind fellow classmates from Russia.

"We need to pass exams every semester," said Olga. These exams are designed to ensure that all students are up to par with the curriculum in their particular field. "Our chance to come to America is once in a lifetime," she explained, putting any notion of keeping up with the exam schedule in Russia on the back burner while on exchange.

Asked what part of Fitchburg campus they like best, the three agreed on the library. Again, the word "gorgeous" found its way into their description. The Russian people place a premium on books; there are over one hundred libraries in Rybinsk alone. Apparently, the

buildings designated as libraries are not quite as spacious as our library. Dmitry, Olga and Alex were initially impressed by the openness of the glass-faced building. Olga said she especially liked having "all conditions to study" in, noting the couches in the M&M lounge and the convenient hours of the building.

All in all, their adjustment to our culture has been smooth. They attribute this to the fact that by living on the FSC campus they are isolated from the "real" day to day life of Americans.

One would have to agree with their assessment.

## Robert Cormier symposium

by Chad Mullin  
Contributing writer

Despite the long weekend and rather barren campus, it was a pleasant surprise to see the number of people who attended Dr. James Kirkland's dinosaur talk on the "Super Slasher or UtahRaptor". The talk was sponsored by the Geo/Physical Sciences Department in celebration of FSC's centennial celebration.

Dr. James Kirkland is a Paleontologist for D.I.S. (Dinamation International Society), which is a non-profit organization promoting education, research and preservation in dinosaur paleontology. The subject of his discussion was UtahRaptor findings from the excavation project at Gaston Quarry, located northeast of Arches National Park in Utah.

Raptor, according to the lecture, is a fossil remain that has been preserved through the years by rock pressure. The

UtahRaptor was identified as the dinosaur Deinonychus, meaning terrible claw. This dinosaur was a meat-eater, measuring some ten feet in length and possessing one of the largest brains of that time.

UtahRaptor gets its name from its claws that have lengths of up to two feet and weighing close to 100 pounds. To get a sense of how sharp these claws were, Dr. Kirkland said that he could shave them. He also stated that the awesome power of these claws made the Deinonychus one of the most feared predators during its time on Earth.

The ironic part of this whole discovery was how it came shortly after the release of Steven Spielberg's box office hit "Jurassic Park". The "man-sized" Velociraptor dinosaur found in "Jurassic Park" did not seem threatening enough for the big screen, so they beefed him up quite a bit. The Utahraptor's

physique was very similar to that of the Velociraptor, and surprisingly, its size came close to the "exaggerated" character that the writers thought they were creating for their film. In other words, the imaginations of all those writers were actually living before the Jurassic Period, and was discovered shortly after the movie came to the big screen.

The term "Jurassic" means relating to the period of the Mesozoic Era preceding the Cretaceous and succeeding the Triassic and the corresponding systems of rocks.

The lecture was for the more advanced followers of paleontology. It was rather interesting to learn the names of Dinosaurs and the different periods they roamed the Earth. If any of you are interested in going on excavations or learning more about this exciting adventure can call the D.I.S. at 1-800-DIG-DINO.

The Robert Cormier Symposium, an event for teachers, researchers, and enthusiasts, will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Fitchburg State College on October 22, 1994. Symposium director Dr. Marilyn A. McCaffrey, Professor of English, has chosen "Cormier in the Classroom" as the theme of this FSC Centennial Event.

Massachusetts and New Hampshire teachers will offer workshops based on Robert Cormier's award-winning books, including The Chocolate War, I Am the Cheese, and Tunes for Bears to Dance to; short lectures on the Leominster author will be presented by faculty and researchers from the College. Creative responses by high school and middle school students are included in the day's events. The featured speaker of the day is Robert Cormier himself.

Robert Cormier's novels, translated into over a dozen languages, are especially prized by teens for their sympathetic characters and emotional honesty. Suspense in a Cormier novel often builds around a decision of the protagonist facing an evil or tragic situation. Wistful glances at everyday life characterize collections of Cormier's short stories and human interest writing. Young Readers medals in New York, California, and Oklahoma are but the latest indications of Cormier's appeal for young adults. English and social studies teachers at the Symposium have used the accessible works of Cormier to encourage reading, writing, and critical approaches to literature among their students.

Robert Cormier grew  
Cont. on page 5.

# Police Log

## October 2, 1994

Fire Alarm- Steam from a shower set off alarm in the Town Houses.

Request for Police- Fight in progress on Authority Dr. Dispersed nine male subjects from the area.

Arrest- One male subject charged with Trespassing After Notice and Disorderly Conduct.

Larceny- Of a tire cover off a vehicle parked in Lower Cedar Lot.

Request for Police- Several local youths trying to gain access to Miller Hall by the way of the fire escape.

Noise Complaint- Residents of Herlihy Hall complaining about males playing basketball at the rear of the building. Dispersed.

## October 3, 1994

Larceny- Of personal property taken from office in C.4 in Fine Arts.

Motor Vehicle Towed- From Miller Lot for expired plates.

Noise Complaint- Approximately 25 people yelling outside Aubuchon Hall. Crowd dispersed.

B&E/Larceny- To motor vehicle parked in North Street Lot #1.

Motor Vehicle Towed- From McKay Main Lot for revoked plates.

## October 4, 1994

Larceny- Of license plate taken from a car parked in North Street Lot #1.

Larceny- Of textbook taken from Thompson Hall.

## October 5, 1994

Medical Transport- Female student taken to Burbank Hospital from Health Services.

Suspicious Person- Male subject bothering persons using computer lab in Hammond Building. Gone upon our arrival.

Medical/Rescue Call- Female with injured wrist transported to Burbank.

## October 6, 1994

Medical/Rescue Call- Ambulance transported a female with burned hand and foot to Burbank Hospital for treatment.

B&E- To a motor vehicle parked in North Street Lot #3.

Medical/Rescue Call- Male subject having a seizure transported to Burbank by ambulance.

Noise Complaint- Sorority pledging on Highland Ave. Dispersed.

## October 7, 1994

Request for Police- Reported fight outside Russell Towers. Two male subjects wrestling. Dispersed both the males involved and the crowd watching.

Assist other PD- With an off-campus assault.

Vandalism- To the lawn outside of New Hall #7.

## October 8, 1994

Fire Alarm- Smoke detector activated alarm in Town Houses. Dispersal- Ten subjects trying to gain access to Elliot Field after hours.

Medical/Rescue Call- Male with dislocated shoulder transported to Burbank ER by ambulance.

Larceny- Of personal property taken from Russell Towers.

Arrest- One male subject on a Default Warrant of Leominster PD.

Motor Vehicle Towed- From the North Street Lot #3.

"Her collars and cuffs were white organdy trimmed with lace and at her neckline she had pinned a purple spray of cloth violets containing a sachet. In case of an accident, anyone seeing her dead on the highway would know at once that she was a lady."

- Flannery O'Connor,  
*A Good Man Is Hard to Find*

# B-ball tournament helps youth group



From L-R: Juan, Josue, Arthur Perkins (Advisor), Pie, Farhan, Freddie, Anthony, and Tim Castine of the College Literacy Corps.

by Randy Miner  
Strobe staff

FSC's Literacy Corps class has teamed up with local neighborhood youths to do something about the tensions and violence which occur around them.

Their action came Saturday, October 1 at McKay Campus school in the form of a basketball tournament called the "King of the Court II."

Over one hundred junior high, high school, and college-age youths participated either as players or fans. Six, six-member teams entered the contest which provided exciting entertainment for the mix of local residents and college students.

The tournament was the brainchild of a local informal youth group known as "Youth of Destiny." Arthur Perkins, the group's volunteer advisor, helped staff the project with the

student volunteers. Tim Castine and Mickey Lawrence, students enrolled in the Literacy Corps class, provided access to campus facilities, assisted in score-keeping and other organizational tasks.

"We are about uniting people in the neighborhood and finding common goals. We hope we can start to offer tutoring programs and other recreational activities on an informal, personal basis since so many youth seem stranded on the streets," said Arthur Perkins.

Tim Castine said, "I really want to make a difference. One of the young men in the group is barred from school. I want to help him get back in." College student Mickey Lawrence, who has not yet declared a major, said her work in the project is causing her to think of Sociology as a major.

Over the course of the last five years, the Student Literacy Corps has worked with

the Three Pyramids, LUK, local schools and the M.O.C by providing tutors. This year's focus on students in the immediate college neighborhood resulted from the recommendations of a college-neighborhood task force and Perkins' request for help.

According to Student Literacy Corps Co-Director, Charles Hetzel, the campus organization is struggling to recruit college students into the demanding course. The Clinton administration is cutting Student Literacy Corps funding on two hundred campuses in favor of the National Service Corps initiative. Hetzel says, "We hope to secure support from other sources if possible. If not, we'll try to struggle on with our volunteers."

Anyone interested in helping the groups, donating time as tutors, or providing other help can contact the Student Literacy Corps class.

## SYMPOSIUM, cont. from page 4.

up in a French-Canadian community of Leominster, MA. After work in radio and with the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, Cormier joined the staff of the Fitchburg Sentinel, eventually becoming an editor at that paper. Some of his news stories won awards from the Associated Press, but he is best known to Sentinel readers as "John Fitch IV", author of twice-weekly observations on everyday life in Fitchburg, Leominster, and beyond. From his hometown, where he has

lived and raised a family of five, Robert Cormier can look upon a successful writing career that has led to movies and television dramatizations of his stories.

Fitchburg State College, which the author attended in the 1940s, is home to the Robert Cormier Manuscript Collection, and values its ongoing relationship with the young adult author. In addition to speaking at the upcoming symposium, Cormier has spoken at a course built around the collection of his works, and participates in the judging of submissions to the FSC English Department's annual writing contest for area middle school students.

Teachers can receive a Certificate of Professional Development for attending the Symposium. Registration and luncheon are included in a \$25.00 conference fee; exhibits are open to the public. For information, contact: FSC English Department, Miller Hall, Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg, MA 01420. Phone: 508-665-3362.

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*"I Want It All"*

by Jason Koivu  
 Strobe staff

Marilyn Monroe, Kurt Cobain, Socrates, John Lennon, and Abraham Lincoln were all destroyed by fame. We pity their lives and the senseless way in which they ended. Why then do we fantasize about that four letter "F" word?

People desire to be noticed. They want respect; to be looked up to and recognized as a person of great worth. And for what merits do people possess that they believe they deserve the spotlight? Generally none. The irony is that 'none' will get you quite a bit these days.

So many of today's "famous" people are floating on false clouds. John Wayne Bobbit became famous because his penis was cut off. What kind of talent is that? Personally, I don't want to even hear about stuff like that, never mind erecting another idol to fame. The person who should get the credit is the doctor who sewed it back on. How many of those operations has he done in the past? Not too many, I'm sure (I hope!) And apparently Bobbit is still capable of getting the job done even after the surgery.

Kato Katalin, a flea nestled in the armpit of the rotting corpse of a hound they call Hollywood, will be reaping the benefits of a double murder for quite some time. Why? Can't answer that one, can you. That's because he's a no-talent leech who pretends to be an actor when actually he's just a L.A. refugee of surfer guy mentality. If tanning is a talent than I take back all I've said about him. The man has obtained a genius surpassed only by George Hamilton.

Another prime example is Michael Bolton, who

doesn't have even the notion of a decent voice, not to mention his total lack of musical originality. He's a middle aged, balding has-been who only appeals to 40-year-old housewives who are dissatisfied with their husbands. And I'll wager they haven't had an orgasm since the mailman stopped delivering.

How about Fabio? Never mind. It'd be too easy.

Another thing that pisses me off about people's convoluted view of fame is their high and mighty condemnation of the managers and promoters of these so-called stars. Most everyone, except their moms of course, see them as bloated money pigs. All they're doing is financially masturbating to these bums, who in turn are leeching off the hapless masses.

And that's what it all comes down to: us. We buy their \$15 CDs, \$25 t-shirts, and pay \$150 to see decaying old men fumble through songs older than the average college student. We drool over the beauties and body builders, who, if they lost an IQ point or two, would be incapable of controlling their own drooling on a regular basis. If these people were any less intelligent they'd have trouble walking the Catwalk or flexing those ever-impressive muscles. Whose autograph could we get then? Oh yeah, I almost forgot those ancient musicians whose credo is "Rock and roll will never die." Or is it: "Rock is dead." No that's not right. Well, one thing's certain; it's better to fade away than burn out and smell like teen spirit. The next time you're idolizing a famous person for their seemingly immortal lives remember the words of John Lennon, "God is a concert by which we measure our pain."

## The bad cops of truth

by Ali S. Errishi  
 Professor of Physics and Philosophy

Schlesinger warns that "multiculturalists" are out to get the good old "Western tradition." There are, no doubt, fraudulent multiculturalists who, not unlike Schlesinger himself, are more interested in their cozy ideological fringes than the good of the students. Schlesinger, however, is after the real thing.

My world, not to confound you, is traditional. It begins with the golden age of Islam, with its Greek background and Jewish friends, and comes to end with the 18th century philosopher, Immanuel Kant. The joys of non-classical physics do not take away from my love for Albert Einstein, the gentle custodian of the classical tradition.

It was in our modest North African schools and homes that my schoolmates and I studied "our" tradition and all things "Western," old and new. Ninth grade, for example, was our third year of English, and the main rivers and crops of the U.S. were but two of the million things we had to know by heart in world geography. Dutifully, we also agreed that Nero was bad and the early Christians (who of course were Jews) were good. In fact, Nero was so bad we named our teacher after him. It felt good to be one of the early Christians.

My gracious Muslim parents, whom I struggle to become, were illiterate, but died proud that their son "learnt so many good 'Western' things so well, he ended up teaching them to the 'Westerners' themselves." (That is, at least, how my mother used to rub in to her beloved sister.) Now, I wish my students

had the same experience with other traditions as I have had with the Islamic tradition behind. The blame for his war of cultures is thus laid at my door.

Schlesinger's wish is outlandish. Islam and the "West," Harvard professor Samuel Huntington has warned, must not be doomed to the tragic fate of the "clash of civilizations." Paradoxical to the end, Richard Nixon agreed. In his last book, he wrote, "Though the West and the Muslims have profound differences, we can learn from each other." He asks us to recognize that "if Muslims are able to chart their own destinies, extreme fundamentalism will not triumph." Why? Because "the traditions of hospitality, openness, and tolerance are the true hallmarks of Muslim philosophy."

According to Schlesinger, however, these are exclusively European virtues. Muslims and others cannot have them "except by adoption." He, thus, complained that "Moslems complained that an illustration (in schoolbooks) of an Islamic warrior with a raised scimitar stereotyped Moslems as 'terrorists'." What are they complaining about, he meant to say, the truth? But, really, what is the point of teaching Islam in the schools at all if Islam had nothing to offer but warriors? Is it not more beneficial for our students and the nation to know the true legacy of Islam? Is it ethnocentric and tribal to suggest that Islamic history in the schools must include the great contributions of Islam which many good "Western" historians have worked out?

The history of Islam is not merely geopolitical. "The Islamic genius of the middle

ages," stated the great Harvard historian of science, George Sarton, "was the good custodian of the Greek and Oriental genius of antiquity, and the original precursor of the European genius of modern times. "The experimental spirit in science," he wrote, "was primarily due to Muslims." Their works were "the most valuable of all, the most original and most pregnant." Their language, Arabic, "was the scientific, progressive and international language of mankind."

My scientific faith in the truth and beauty of the physics of symmetries, said Abdus Salam, the 1979 Nobel Prize physicist, "came from my Islamic heritage." Abdus Salam, wrote professor John Ziman of the University of Bristol, England, "has followed the teaching of Islam and has dedicated his life to the principle of unity — the unity of Nature and the unity of Mankind." Some ethnocentric, some tribal celebrant this Abdus Salam.

Schlesinger warns that his enemies want to turn history into therapy. Unfortunately, however, all history is therapy. The history of Jews, for example, as well as the Christian's account in the Gospels are both therapeutic (the word 'gospel' is from Old English 'goodspell' which means good news). Nor is the history of Muslims less therapeutic. Some history, no doubt, is true, some false, and most in between. The good historian, then, must be mindful of Cicero's three laws and never dare utter untruth, suppress nothing that is true, and be, unlike Schlesinger, neither partisan nor malicious. Schlesinger, no doubt, knows these laws, but like a bad cop he holds others

accountable for the laws he ignores.

Against his enemies he asks, "What kind of history do you have if you leave out all the bad things?" Yet, with his friends, Peggy Noonan and Alan Bloom, he argues that certain things must be left out. The nation, he quotes Noonan, must be protected against the unpatriotic "skepticism of the modern mind." It is Weems all over again. When asked why he made up the little story about the hatchet and the cherry tree

Weems replied, "Was not that good for the boys?" Indeed it was. I wonder, however, if Schlesinger would razzberry this "feel good history" as "betrayal of a novel profession".

The pursuit of truth, I believe, must be like truth itself, universal. Still, some works of culture are, no doubt, higher than others. History, however, is always unfinished business, and this phony elitism that fills the air must not be cultivated at the pains of the vulnerable among us.

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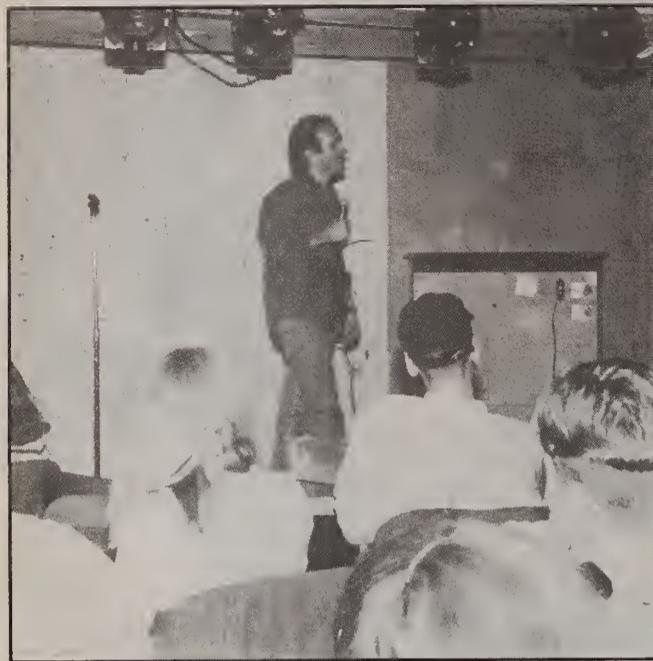
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## Toys and laughs at Comedy Night



Nick Costas entertains FSC students at Comedy Night photo by Paula Ferazzi

by Jennifer Langlois  
Contributing writer

Whistles, erasers, M+M toys, a few laughs, and lots of fun. A field trip to the McKay School? No. It was Thursday night, Oct. 6 in the Pub, and the crowd that gathered for Programs Committee's Comedy Night was presented with grab bags at the door, which contained, yes, whistles, erasers, and M+M toys.

The show, originally slated to start at 9:30 p.m., began twenty minutes late due to one of the performer's car trouble. The first act, Jennifer Hoag, wasted no time making fun of the late start; unfortunately her jokes were dry. Her whole act had no real momentum. Hoag told a joke and let it hang over the audience until they laughed.

Hoag's routine consisted mainly of male bashing and breast jokes. The best laugh she got from the audience was achieved when she suggested a game of "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Audience member, Alex Newbold then asked Hoag

to "bend over." Cruel, but the crowd roared.

The second act, Peter Cummin was a rollicking, laugh-a-minute, good time. Cummin made fun of everything from his last name to his stutter, from country clubs to McDonald's employees.

Hecklers tried to have as much fun with Cummin as they did with Hoag, but failed. Cummin proved to be a talented improviser and quickly shutdown most backhanded comments.

For a surprise, unscheduled third act, Nick Costas tried out some material he will use in his upcoming cable show. A general consensus was made that he was a poor man's Stephen Wright. Costas had an annoying, twitchy stage presence, a monotone delivery (a Wright-ism), and very few funny statements.

As far as the grab bags were concerned: the person who found a purple M+M toy in her bag won a t-shirt. All in all Comedy Night provided enough laughs to make it a worthwhile Thursday evening event.

by Olivier F. Beauchemin  
Contributing writer

Are you looking for a fast paced, espionage suspense thriller with enough high-tech to make even 007's mouth water? If so, Harrison Ford's portrayal of Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan in "Clear and Present Danger" will wet your palate.

From the first frame of the film the audience is drawn into the twisted plot, which centers on a Columbian drug runner and the murder of an important and influential friend of the President of the United States. Simple enough you say? This movie has enough plot twists to make your head spin.

When the President learns of what happened to his friend, Ryan must determine

who is responsible and what the motive is. During Ryan's investigation he exposes back-stabbing and covert government involvement all the way to the White House. Ryan then finds himself embroiled in an international incident that must be kept hush-hush.

There is only one small problem: a task force was sent by the National Security Advisor to eliminate the drug cartel who was responsible. When Ryan reports his knowledge of the operations, his superiors strand the task force in Columbia. Within the movie's two hours and twenty minutes the viewer is given a shocking look at the awesome reality of U.S. Intelligence and Executive power.

The acting is superb, as

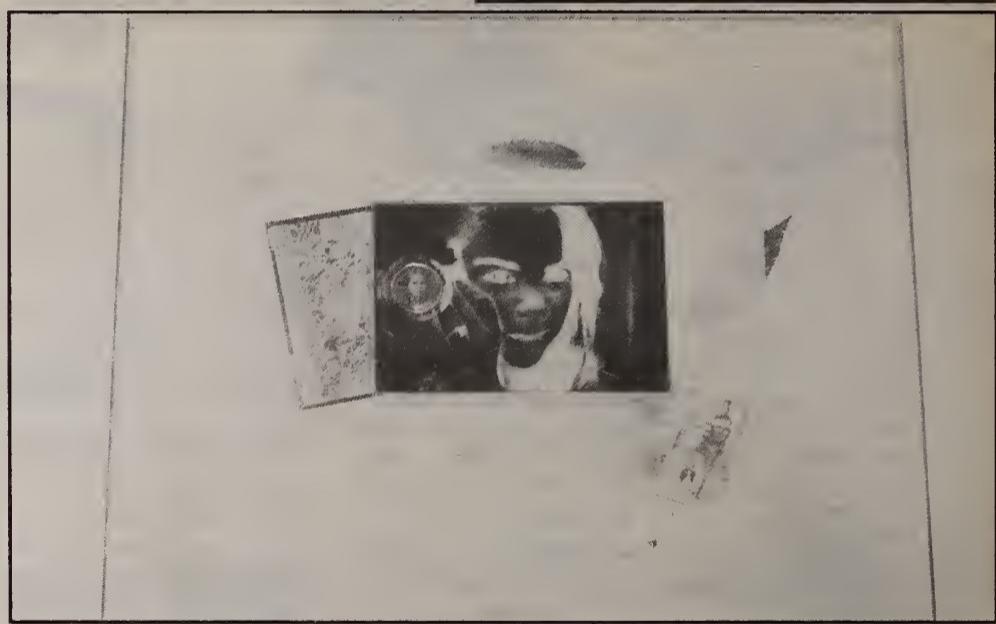
one would expect with a cast featuring such names as Ford, Anne Archer ("Scandal"), William DeFoe ("Last Temptation of Christ," "Platoon") and James Earl Jones ("Patriot Games," "Sneakers.")

Technically the movie is excellent. The script was written conscientiously with much research (a Clancy trademark) to add a level of credibility and authenticity to the information used in the movie. The special effects were well done, and with great attention to detail.

"Clear and Present Danger" is a must see movie, recommendable to anyone with the transportation means necessary to reach the theater.

\*\*Special thanks to Loews Theater in Leominster.\*\*

## 'Beyond Memory' exhibit opens



FSC Art Gallery displays art by Helen Obermeyer-Simmons.

photo by Paula Ferazzi

by Sheryl A. Moretto-Thibault  
Contributing writer

Artist, Helen Obermeyer-Simmons displayed "Beyond Memory," a collection of her non-silver photographs, prints and collages in the Gallery of the Hammond Building. With a background in fine arts and graphic design, Obermeyer-Simmons is a professor in the Communications and Media department at FSC.

Obermeyer-Simmons has developed a unique approach to collages and prints. She said, "Each of the processes involve mixing light sensitive emulsions and handcoating the emulsions onto artist paper, or

in the photo-etching process onto a metal plate. Each sensitizer produces prints with distinct visual characters."

The portraits of yesteryear clearly engulf the viewer. Obermeyer-Simmons explores geometric shapes, dried flowers, feathers, butterflies and a variety of textured materials. Some images, she explains are "Cyanotype, which are blue in color and some are Vandyke, which are brown in color. However, the photo-etchings maybe printed in a wide range of colors."

Her style is poetic. The 25 silver framed, white matted self-reflected images emote romantic and immortal

visions. As you walk through the Gallery you will be suspended in time. A favorite of the artist's heirloom collection is that of "Harry and Gertrude 1914;" a photograph of her grandparents framed within pastel colors and dried rose petals.

There are themes of reflection, industry, nature, family and childhood. Take a stroll through "Beyond Memory" and view the artistry of Obermeyer-Simmons.

Her "one woman" show will end November 11. The Gallery's hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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by MEMO © 1994 KUMQUAT COMICS™

...BUT IN REALITY  
WE'RE JUST CHANGING  
THE LABELS.

BUT (OF COURSE) WE'RE NOT  
HAPPY UNTIL WE HAVE  
CATEGORIZED ALL MUSIC...



...MAKING SURE IT'S ALL CLEARLY  
DEFINED SO THAT WE CAN EASILY  
TELL WHERE "OUR" MUSIC LIES.

A MELODY IS UNIVERSAL. YOU  
CAN PLUG IT INTO METAL, RAP,  
JAZZ, COUNTRY, BLUEGRASS,  
CLASSICAL, R+B, SOUL, ROCK,  
NEW AGE, FOLK, GRUNGE OR  
ANY OTHER "STYLE" OF MUSIC,  
AND THE MELODY WILL REMAIN.  
STYLE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH  
A GOOD TUNE... IF YOU CAN ONLY  
RELATE TO CERTAIN STYLES,  
YOU ARE GOING TO MISS OUT ON  
A WEALTH OF WONDERFUL MUSIC,  
ALL BECAUSE OF A CLOSED MIND...

PEOPLE LOVE TO  
CATEGORIZE...



WHILE THIS IS EASIER TO  
NOTICE IN RACIAL SITUATIONS,  
WE SEEM TO BE BLIND TO  
THE FACT THAT WE LABEL  
EVERYTHING.

**CASE  
in  
Point** MUSIC

UP TO A FEW YEARS AGO,  
MOST PEOPLE'S ATTITUDE WAS

I LIKE MOST  
KINDS OF MUSIC,  
YOU KNOW...  
ROCK, METAL...  
EXCEPT COUNTRY.  
ANYTHING BUT  
COUNTRY MUSIC.

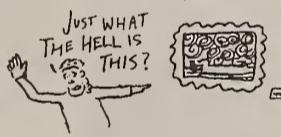
AS IF THIS WEREN'T ENOUGH,  
PEOPLE ALSO ATTACH MUSIC  
WITH AGE, WHICH WIDENS THE  
PSYCHOLOGICAL "GENERATION GAP"  
AND BREAKS DOWN UNDERSTANDING...

THINKS SHE'S  
TOO COOL FOR  
ANYTHING MADE  
BEFORE 1972

I DONT LISTEN TO THAT  
"CLASSIC ROCK" SHIT...  
ONLY MUSIC OF MY  
GENERATION -  
ALTERNATIVE,  
CUTTING-  
EDGE STUFF  
ONLY.

BUZZ-COCKS

... THEY JUST CAN'T RELATE  
TO THE UNKNOWN... AND WHAT  
THEY DON'T KNOW, THEY FEAR...



MUSIC IS SOMETHING THAT  
EVERY HUMAN BEING CAN  
RELATE TO...

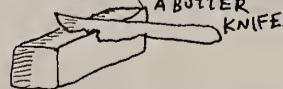
... WHETHER  
YOU'RE A REAL  
CLASSICAL  
MUSIC-HEAD...

FUN WITH  
STEREOTYPES

BUT NOW, THANKS TO \$-HUNGRY  
RECORD COMPANIES, THE  
ATTITUDE IS

GARTH BROOKS  
KICKS ASS,  
MAN!

HERE'S A NEWS FLASH: MTV  
BOUGHT ALL ALTERNATIVE  
MUSIC, MAKING IT MAINSTREAM.  
MOST OF THESE "BUZZ BANDS"  
ARE ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF  
A BUTTER



THERE ARE GOOD BANDS OUT THERE,  
JUST LIKE THERE WERE IN 1972.  
TIME + STYLE HAVE NOTHING TO  
DO WITH GOOD MUSIC...

HENDRIX, MAN.  
HENDRIX AND ZEPPLIN -  
THAT'S IT.

THINKS HE'S TOO COOL  
TO LISTEN TO ANYTHING  
AFTER 1972.

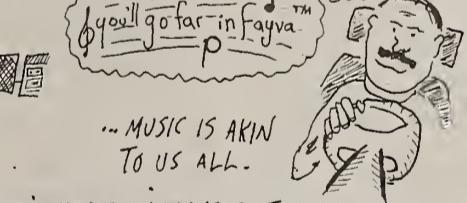
SOME OF US MAY THINK WE  
HAVE OPENED OUR MINDS...

"BLACK PERSON"  
IS SO  
INSULTING  
AND  
RACIST...



... OR AN AVERAGE JOE THAT WATCHES  
A LOT OF TV...

you'll go far in Fayva



... MUSIC IS AKIN  
TO US ALL.

WERE NEVER WILLING TO TRY THE UNKNOWN.  
WE FIRST HAVE TO BE TOLD BY OUR MEDIA  
TO LISTEN TO SOMETHING - THAT "SEAL OF  
APPROVAL" - A POWER THAT THE MEDIA LOVE#  
TO EXPLOIT.

THIS STUFF HAS BEEN AROUND  
FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS...  
BUT ONLY NOW  
WILL WE ALLOW  
YOU TO LISTEN  
AND BUY IT!

YES,  
MASTER...

CAN YOU IMAGINE A RECORD STORE WITH  
NO CATEGORIES? JUST ONE ALPHABETIZED  
SELECTION? FINDING NEIL YOUNG, "WEIRD AL"  
YANKOVIC, AND YANNI ALL NEXT TO EACH OTHER?  
WILL IT EVER HAPPEN?

STRICTLY  
CLASSICAL

HARD CORE  
PUNK

BLK  
FAC

GIMME GOOD OL'  
BLUEGRASS OR  
NOTHING

IF IT AINT "YES",  
IT AINT GOOD.

WHAT?  
PROG-  
ROCK  
SUCKS!

THINKS HE'S TOO COOL  
TO LISTEN TO ANYTHING  
AFTER 1972.

- PROBABLY NOT.

# Reality slap stings Falcons

by Todd Finn  
Strobe Staff

It happens to all of us. Male or female, black or white, Catholics, people with freckles, Jocks, Puffy Hair Girls, and Earthy-Crunchy folks alike. Just when life seems to be in a groove, days are bright and sunny, your teams are winning and all you can get is satisfaction, those sinister clouds of hardship come blowing in from Hell, and the lightning bolts of misery begin blazing from the heavens as if to serve as a wake up call. Welcome to reality.

Two weeks ago, everything seemed to be going so well here in Falconland. Our women's soccer remained undefeated, football still had a shot at the NEFC crown, field hockey was on a roll, and men's soccer

regained form at last. Looking at the overall success of the 1994 seasons up to that point, I rolled back in the swivel chair behind the desk in the Strobe Office, folded my arms across my chest and said "This is good."

That's when that storm cloud thing happened. In retrospect, I almost blame myself for the recent demise of some of our Falcon teams. Maybe I cursed them by billing the green and gold as indestructible, and some powerful force from above was just showing me how easy it would be to slip into the gutter of failure. Every athlete and sports fan knows that superstitions are a major part of the games we love, and that somewhere beyond the horizon lives a God who just loves to get his two cents worth of participation in deciding a contest. Miracle passes, last second goals, and

unexplainable feats of heroism may very well be controlled by the big fan in the sky.

What an easy way out! This was the only possible explanation for the skidding of the field hockey team, the crumble of football, and the halt in the women's soccer 8-0 season. I figured that if I just stopped writing about how much I truly believe in these teams, things would get back on track and the Falcons would be winning again.

But isn't that what the larger local newspapers do to Fitchburg State College? If we receive any ink at all, it's usually in some obscure section between dog racing and Hungarian Squash matches. Headlines never read "Fitchburg State Wins Big." Instead, they say "Falcons Get Lucky." Sports writers just don't believe

in FSC, and they don't make much of an effort to bring fans to Elliot Field.

The athletes at Fitchburg State College are students who have classes, problems at home, troubles in school, and pressures of winning games to boot. Nobody can expect them to be pumping out wins like a professional team because they are still growing and learning. This is what college is all about, and this is why we sometimes fall off the winning track. There are no invisible forces that cause the Falcons to lose. Sometimes, losing is the way it is, and from our losses derive our greatest victories.

I have decided to continue to be a part of the FSC success and failure by bringing out the positive points in the contests involving our Falcons. I haven't seen anything more intense than

the fire in Tina Leger's eyes as she guides the field hockey team through a tough road loss. Chris Dupuis is inspiring on the soccer field, and the smile of Maryann Barrett as she scores a goal is something that can never be explained in a box score. There are some special people at FSC who participate in sports, and it is my job to see to it that everybody knows what is really going on.

As the seasons continue, I'm sure that every team will find ways to win again. The reality slap has taken its toll, regardless of who is to blame. For as long as I remain a student and an athlete at Fitchburg State College, I will always remember that reality controls the events on the field, but it is heart and sheer desire that in the end control reality.

## Men's Soccer

by Greg Masse  
Staff writer

The FSC men's soccer team lost a tough game against the Bridgewater State Bears. The Falcons dominated throughout the game, but Bridgewater made good use of the chances they were given. Bridgewater struck first with a goal by Jason Cook at about five minutes into the game. They then scored again with a shaky goal by Adam Cupples at 10:43 into the game.

The Falcons regained their composure and scored their first goal of the game making it 2-1. Takashi Adachi scored this goal which put Fitchburg right back into the game. Then, near the end of the first half, Cupples

scored again for the Bears, putting them ahead by two.

The second half was owned by the Fitchburg defense, but the offense could only muster one more goal. The goal was scored at 73 minutes into the game by junior John Toney. Both of Fitchburg's goals were assisted by co-captain Dean Nichols. Final score was 3-2, Bridgewater's game.

The Saturday night game against Salem was a whole different ball game. Salem, a powerhouse in the MASCAC, came to Fitchburg to challenge a team who was hungry for a win. Not only was it a statistically important game, but it was also Alumni Weekend.

When the game began, the teams seemed evenly matched. However, the Falcons drew first blood with a goal by Takashi Adachi. From there it was an up and down affair with neither team dominating the other. The second goal of the game was scored by Dean Nichols with an assist by John Toney. The rest of the game was a defensive standoff with Salem finally getting on the board with two minutes to play in the game.

The final score was 2-1, bringing Fitchburg's record to within one game of .500 at 4-5-1. The Falcons will next travel to Wentworth on October 20 and will host Clark University in their next home game on October 25.

## Open Letter

Dear Students and Friends of Fitchburg State:

We are the teaching faculty and librarians of your college and we are asking for your help in resolving a contract impasse that is making it impossible for us to support our own children in college or to even meet our monthly obligations.

Usually we go about our work quietly, seeking contract fairness without interfering in the academic atmosphere of the college but our state politicians and bureaucrats in Boston have remained unmoved.

For the second time in five years we find ourselves working without a contract and without even the hint of an economic offer.

The state denies us fair wages year after year. Most of us are paid well below the prevailing wages of elementary and secondary school educators and our raises are always below those of our fellow educators in the public sector.

Our own college has refused to grant those of us who teach in the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education a wage increase for FIVE LONG YEARS.

A few years ago we marched with you on the road to Boston to argue against huge tuition increases and budget cuts that threatened all of us. We now ask you to join us with the full understanding that we will be there when you need us in the future as we have been in the past. Our interests are bound together because what we are seeing is an out and out assault upon public higher education.

Please join us on Wednesday, October 26 at 1:00 p.m. when we will walk across campus and meet at the Hammond Building to make our case.

Together you can help us create a fair playing field. You can help the hard working faculty and librarians voices be heard. We need your help.

Thank you in advance for anything you can do to assist us.

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The Entire Executive Committee of the Massachusetts State College Association  
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**Next Week: Huck tells all about new team sport at FSC!**

# FSC Football



FSC Falcons were looking for a win...

photo by Eric Magiera



...but ended at the bottom of the heap in a 24-18 loss against Mass Maritime during Alumni weekend

photo by Paula Ferazzi

## Women's Soccer

by Norman Miller  
Strobe Writer

The Fitchburg State women's soccer team suffered their first loss of the season to North Adams by a score of 1-0, but then followed that up with a victory over Westfield State. Their record now stands at nine wins and one loss, and they have moved into first place in the MASCAC.

The Falcons played North Adams on Monday in what turned out to be a defensive battle as well as a search for a single goal. Both teams played

to a standstill in the first half as a result of the classic defensive matchups.

On a controversial call, FSC Fullback Kelly Koscielecki was forced to sit out for the entire half because the officials thought she was injured.

In the second half, not much more offense could be found by either team. With only five minutes remaining, however, Mohawk captain Maura Sullivan scored off a corner kick which was out of the reach of goalkeeper Stacie Mawn.

FSC was outshot fifteen to nine, and consequently took their first loss of the sea-

son.

On Saturday the fifteenth, the Falcons traveled to Westfield to play the Owls on the turf. Maryanne Barrett scored her eighth goal, and Ginger Boermeester also chipped one in for the 2-0 shutout. The win puts FSC on top of the MASCAC at 3-1, an NCAA record for such a young team in a brand new program.

The Falcons will take on the Sharks of Simmons College in Boston on Thursday, and will play their final home game before the playoffs on Saturday against Gordon.

### Field Hockey, from page 12

\* Chris Miller, Mary Baker, and Jennifer Radley have been key factors in the Falcon's shutouts, and major reasons why they have never been blown out.

\* Tiffany Davis, Eileen Lavey, and Eileen Simmons have also matured through the battles on the road, taking more

initiative and establishing themselves as forces to deal with in the games to come.

The Season is far from over with Salem State, Worcester State, Framingham State, and Elms still on the agenda. If the Green Brigade can pull out victories in three out of the four

contests, they may very well have a shot at post season play. Technically, they could win the MASCAC with a conference record of 3-1-1. The opportunity is still out there if these Falcons will heed to these simple words of advise: Don't give up. Don't ever give up.

## From the Locker Room

*Nobody's asking, but...*

by Todd Finn  
Strobe Staff

\* In last week's field hockey "Battle at Bridgewater", FSC senior Erica Oliver sustained a deep slash below her left eye, but there were no qualified Bridgewater State Trainers on the scene to give proper attention to the injury. It turned out that she needed thirty stitches at Brockton Hospital. For a college that supposedly has a better athletics program than most in the MASCAC, I'm shocked that their Sports Medicine Department is so incompetent. In fact, it's scary.

\* At Kansas State University, the students have formed an outstanding road support team which travels with the athletes to other schools. Meeting in shopping mall parking lots, they decorate their cars and trucks with purple and white streamers, balloons and signs. Then, they form an enormous caravan and follow the team's bus to the opposition's campus, where they "invade" the bleachers and give tremendous support. Wouldn't that be a great idea for Falcon Fans?

\* Women's Cross Country destroyed WPI last week, giving strong support to my theory that FSC will dominate all Worcester area opponents over the 94-95 season.

\* At 5-15, Women's Volleyball has five remaining games before the MASCAC tournament. If they can come together as a team before October 29, FSC Volleyball may become a darkhorse in the running for the showdown of state schools.

\* Last week, the Men's Soccer Team upset Salem State under the lights at Elliot Field. This team deserves a lot more ink than just an excerpt in my Locker Room, so look for next week's Men's Soccer Expo in the Strobe.

\* Do you think FSC will ever get a co-ed naked rugby team?

\* If we can't get rugby, how about a Bobsled Team? That probably wouldn't work either, because as soon as the sled drivers stopped for some hot cocoa, the FSC Campus Police would find a reason to slap a parking ticket on the bobsled. Sometimes, you just can't win.

\* If Rick Fox decides to get one more haircut, he will have become the first Boston Celtic to average more hairdos than rebounds in a single season.

\* Speaking of basketball, something different has been going on in Parkinson Gym. Late at night, players have been seen practicing in anticipation for a great season. Behind DAKA, guys are shooting baskets even after it is dark outside. This may truly be a special team, and anticipation is building as winter draws closer.

\* Imagine what it would be like if the MASCAC told each school to change their mascot to something that is relevant to their city? This could pose a problem for FSC, because I haven't seen a Falcon here in two years. Does this mean that North Adams would change their name from "Mohawks" to "The Deliverance?"

\* Anybody interested in running winter track needs to contact Derek Valcourt or Kris Theriault as soon as possible.

"For every action there is a reason; hence for every non-action there is a lack of a reason."

- Mark LeBlanc  
from *Politics to decide FSC Extension*

# Field hockey searches for answers

by Todd Finn  
Strobe Staff

October has been a tough month for the Fitchburg State College field hockey team. After putting together an impressive winning streak in the final week of September, the Falcons have come up just short of a victory in their last seven outings. Ironically, this miniature skid has somehow shown that this team still has the backbone and stamina to compete with the best programs in New England.

One day after dropping a nail biter to Salve Regina in Newport, Rhode Island, the Falcons traveled to Westfield to take on the Owls. With the Westfield astroturf working against them in the first half, the ladies in green fell behind early and never recovered.

As if their Frequent Traveler Miles hadn't yet accumulated enough to win that set of steak knives, the fatigued Falcons headed south east to arch rival Bridgewater State College, where they were to face one of the areas strongest offensive teams. The heavily favored Bears were shocked to find out that their injured and over-traveled opponents from Fitchburg came to put on a defensive "How-To" exhibit, holding them

to zero goals by the game's end. Despite this display of remarkable resilience, the Green could not score themselves, walking off the literally darkened field with a double-overtime tie. Most any other teams would have been satisfied to have accomplished such a feat on the road, but this feisty group wanted and deserved to win.

Anybody who has followed this team knows that their 3-7-2 record does not reflect their efforts, and does not tell the true story behind these athletes. There are many factors which have made it difficult to pull out a victory, and it is remarkable that this team has not given up as the injury list grows longer every day. Each player has been bruised, cut, or worse over the course of the season, and their limited amount of substitutes have not been able to keep up with the need for replacements. Yet still they huddle together like a mass of injured soldiers refusing to die, and believing in their hearts that determination will pull them through.

As the final four games approach, take note of what has been going on as this rebuilding team has endeavored to uphold the prestige and honor of Falcon Tradition:

\* They have gone head to head with four true power-

house teams, taking two of them into overtime.

\* Erika Klimko, the top sweeper in the MASCAC, has played in every game despite being injured since day one.

\* Tina Leger has found a way to incorporate her street hockey skills into maneuvering on the field. Slashing left and banking right, she maintains control of the ball through the labyrinth of opponents who are aware of her talents. If field hockey was basketball, she'd be a Globetrotter.

\* Erika Oliver, the team's leading scorer, was sidelined on Saturday due to injuries sustained at Bridgewater State. The senior captain has sacrificed herself many times this season, and will probably be back soon to do it again.

\* Wendy Gagliani has given opposing teams at least two major scares per game, as she engineers her patented solo breakaways and comes closer to scoring with every attempt.

\* Newcomers Kristen Hogan and Ashley Aube may soon become major scoring threats in future games. If opportunity meets execution, these two outstanding athletes could be just what Gagliani needs to slam the door on those fast breaks.



FSC field hockey player hustles for the ball

photo by Eric Magiera

\* Dianne Marshall is rated as one of the top goal tenders in New England. She is only a Freshman, but has grown into her role as the stopper with incredible speed.

\* Merideth Hertel has

been playing literally one handed after an injury at Salve Regina, and yet still manages to attack the opposition with great tenacity.

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# Kris Theriault: the making of a champion

By Todd Finn  
Strobe Staff

It's a Saturday morning in Chicopee, Massachusetts. The year is 1981, and most people in this suburban town are still sleeping. One boy, however, is wide awake, after finishing his big bowl of fruity pebbles and watching cartoons on television. In a few hours, he will be standing at home plate in his little league uniform as will most other kids in Chicopee. Little does he know that in a few years, he will be representing a State College in the National Track and Field Championships as the star javelin thrower.

This classic American sports story is not just an inspiring tale for younger boys to memorize and emulate. In fact, it's the story of Fitchburg State's own Kris Theriault.

The senior Track Captain is as easily identifiable on campus as he is in the NCAA record books. With his regular guy, mild mannered personality,



Kris Theriault poses with friend and javelin.

Kris is always the first to say hello in the hallways or lend a helping hand when needed.

However, once he steps onto the field, he becomes a relentless machine whose purpose is to

win big for the college.

As a high school senior, Kris qualified for the State competition as the representative from Chicopee. Unfortunately, Theriault slept through the meet, and never knew what would have been had he competed. Immediately after graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army as a Combat Engineer, and eventually worked his way onto the Army Track and Field Team. Four years later, Kris decided to give college a shot, and applied to Fitchburg State. The rest is recorded history.

FSC Track Coach Jim Sheehan discovered Theriault as a freshman, and has worked with his recruit for the past three years. In that time, Kris has shattered the National Division 3 javelin record, becoming the first champion from FSC since 1977. He has won three All-America certificates in track and field events, earning respect for Fitchburg State Athletics and putting the Falcons on the national map of competitors. On top of that, he is the owner of

three MASCAC Championship titles, three New England Division 3 crowns, and two New England All Division championships.

With one more year left at FSC, Theriault's goal is to once again top the MASCAC, qualify for the Nationals, and to compete in the Mobil TAC meet, an event featuring the finest track athletes in the country.

"I really owe a lot of thanks to Coach Sheehan," said Theriault. "Without his guidance and motivation, I would never have been able to accomplish what I have at Fitchburg State College."

As the days go by and the sun continues to rise and set on Elliot Field, the Kris Theriault era is quickly coming to an end. Never again will we have the chance to be in the presence of such an outstanding athlete and unique person, but we can take comfort in knowing that he is ours for now, and will always be a Falcon for as long as his image graces the track and field of Fitchburg State College.